

I Peter

#3 Our Salvation (1:4-12)

INTRODUCTION

Peter's formula (doxology) for praising the Lord:

Lord: indicating His full and complete authority

Jesus: This is His human name. It means, "God is the one who saves."

Christ: This is the Greek word, Messiah. It means "the one who anoints."

Our Salvation-The New Birth (4-5)

This re-birth is illustrated in the story about Nicodemus in John 3:1-21. This rebirth happens by the will of God (James 1:18) and is the work of the Spirit (John 3:1-15).

When we are reborn, we are given a new heart and a new nature (II Cor. 5:17). We are adopted as "sons" (we have both a relationship and a position in Christ (Gal.4:1-5).

Peter reminds these suffering believers of two incredible things we have in Christ:

1. Living Hope (FOR NOW!)

This not wishful thinking, but a confident optimism that is based on the promise and person of God Himself.

- A. Living Hope assures our immortality (Acts 24:15)
- B. Living Hope provides an anchor for living (Heb. 6:18)
- C. Living Hope is secured by the resurrection of Christ (I Pet. 1:3)

2. Our Inheritance (FOR THEN!)

A. Our inheritance cannot be destroyed. It is undefiled, it cannot be stained. It will not fade.

B. Our inheritance is preserved- KEPT.

-It is reserved or guarded (perfect tense...meaning it is an action that was completed at a specific time in the past, with the results still reverberating into the present.)

The results are permanent.

-It is shielded (present passive voice...meaning that it is continuous action being done on our behalf.) It is the continuous action of God that ensures our inheritance.

C. It's location-Heaven.

Heaven is our permanent residence (John 14:2) and the source of our real joy (Luke 10:20).

Side Note: it is fruitless to try to find out the time and circumstances of His return. See Matthew 24:36-42 and Acts 1:7. But, we are told to watch and be ready.

I highly recommend Randy Alcorn's book, *Heaven*.

“What then is this wonderful inheritance which the reborn Christian possesses? There may be secondary answers to that question but there is only one primary answer—the inheritance of the Christian is God Himself. The Psalmist said, ‘The Lord is my chosen portion...I have a Godly heritage’ (Psalms 16:5). God is his portion forever (Psalms 73:23-26). ‘The Lord’ said the prophet, ‘is my portion, therefore I will hope in Him (Lamentations 3:24).’” (Barclay)

The Secret of Endurance (6-12)

In light of our salvation (our living hope and coming inheritance), there are some things we need to remember:

1. (vs. 6-7) Christians do suffer all kinds of trials.

In this passage, Peter did not use the usual word for persecutions or tribulations. This particular word for “trial” literally means to have many colors or nuances. Interestingly, it is used again in I Pet. 4:10. In that passage, the grace of God is also seen as “many colored.”

- a. There is a particular grace to match each of our trials.
 - b. We need to see those trials as “precious” or very costly.
2. (vs. 8) God may be unseen, but He is not unknown. As we believe in Him, we are filled with inexpressible joy.
 3. (vs. 9) Throughout the trials, remember, we are receiving the goal of our faith—our SALVATION.

Salvation accomplished in the past: Eph. 2:8-10 (Perfect tense)

Salvation in our daily lives: I Cor. 1:8 and II Cor. 3:18

Salvation in the future: Rom. 5:8-10

4. (v.10-13) Acknowledge that even the OT prophets yearned to know when the future “salvation” would occur. Their writings point us to the “grace that is to come.” See Isa. 53, Ps. 22:1-31 and Ps. 110:1-7.

So What?

1. We must be BORN AGAIN.
We can't lean on the faith of our fathers, our good deeds or the expectation of some kind of "last chance." Today is the day of salvation (II Cor. 6:2)

We are not ashamed of the gospel: Rom. 1:16

2. We must treat every kind of trial (or testing or tempting) as an opportunity to lean into Christ (rather than to recoil). See I Peter 5:10.

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November Monthly Memory Verse:

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Questions 1-3 from Study at Home

1. In verse 2, the three members of the **Trinity** are all involved. Fill in the blank:
The _____ chooses us; the _____ sanctifies us;
_____ redeemed us with His blood; and we should obey.
2. **Sanctification**: the process of being _____ for the work of Christ.
3. As we are studying the book of Joshua on Sunday mornings, we see the importance of "fighting" for our sanctification. We are all a work in progress and need to fight for progress by crucifying our flesh, asking for strength and abiding (staying close) in Christ. What are your current **spiritual rhythms** (practices) that are a part of your progressive sanctification? Are there any that you want to focus on most? Some examples: daily devotion, prayer, worship in song, practicing gratitude, practicing generosity, serving others, sharing your testimony.
4. What from Sherry's teaching today stood out to you?
5. Do you think that understanding our inheritance should affect our priorities in this life? If so, how?
6. Peter begins by reminding readers of the greatness of our salvation. In what ways could this have a positive impact on our lives?

Study at Home

1. Can you think of a trial or time of testing that you used as an opportunity to lean into Christ? Was there a peace or strength that you experienced that was beyond understanding?

2. Look up James 1:2-4 NIV and fill in the blank:
Consider it pure _____, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face _____ of many kinds, because you know that the _____ of your _____ produces _____. Let _____ finish its work so that you may be _____ and _____, not lacking anything.

3. What stands out to you most when you read this verse?